



The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



Volume 25 (1)

Spring Issue

May 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Hammerschmidt

Well, here it is May already, and I'm just now getting my first message out to our membership. Unfortunately, that's how it goes during a legislative year - - - crises linked to crises, all needing action no later than "yesterday". Fortunately, the Texas Legislature is winding down, and all the crises are theirs trying to complete business before the session's end this month.

Now to TCAFS business. The 1999 Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi has come and gone, and I hope it left pleasant memories for all who attended. I know I will never forget it. More importantly, I deeply want to thank all those chapter members and invited guests who helped to make it a great meeting. Sixty-six people attended the Continuing Education programs. The concurrent presentations included Human Dimensions in Fisheries Management, How to Give an Effective Presentation, and Genetics in Fisheries Management. Thanks go to the instructors of those programs.

We had a total of 25 technical presentations this year including 4 posters. This is clear evidence that our membership continues to produce relevant and timely research in the fisheries arena. Congratulations and thanks to all the presenters.

By the way, if you have not already done so, Gordon Linam needs your manuscripts so he can prepare the Proceedings of the meeting.

The panel discussion on water issues in Texas was well received by those who attended. It brought to focus the

great diversity of interest in water use, and that fisheries scientists and managers should not be shy in working within the process to ensure that all fisheries habitats are seriously considered as important and valuable recipients of water allocation plans.

The auction tremendously successful and the social was great fun. The financial support for the Chapter's scholarship fund reinforces to me how generous our membership is and how seriously each member takes our efforts to encourage students to remain in the fisheries career. I hope you all enjoyed the Texas State Aquarium and their accommodations.

Congratulations go to President-elect Charlie Munger and Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Wade on their election to these posts. Please continue to help Charlie on his adventure in planning the 2000 Annual Meeting by forwarding him your suggestions in planning and offering your help.

As The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society grows toward the 21st century, I wish to encourage each and every member to continue to take a personal interest in the Chapter, its business, and its outreach to students who aspire to become fisheries scientists and managers. You can do this by working within one or more of our various committees, attending meetings, and supporting the goals of the Chapter.

I am greatly privileged to be your President this year. I welcome any and all suggestions you may have that will enhance my ability to serve you, the members, and the Chapter as a whole.



PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Prentice

I really enjoyed our Annual Meeting with a great and informative panel session, a full slate of varied presentations, the full gauntlet of fisheries personnel from various interest areas that were present, and the visit to Corpus Christi. I thank Paul Hammerschmidt and the many people who helped in some way make the meeting such a success. If you missed this one, you missed a great meeting, but start planning to hold some time in your schedule during the later part of January 2000 to get to the next Annual Meeting!

For some years we have discussed some challenge or another to aquatic natural resources and how our diverse efforts are unified to meet that challenge. The same will be true this year. This is why I am thankful that so many various-interest-area fisheries professionals and students are involved in our Chapter and were present at the annual meeting. Our Chapter and the American Fisheries Society are broad-based organizations, which gives us all an opportunity to interact toward the goal of maintaining aquatic natural resources. The key to any success is each individual member doing a part. As in the formation of a successful meeting, the ability to merge strengths of members in all areas of our profession allows us to achieve goals and meet challenges. There is a place for everyone to do a part, so jump in there and maintain the diversity.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

by Deborah Wade

The Business meeting was called to order on the afternoon of January 25, 1999 by John Prentice president. One hundred forty three people attended the annual meeting, of them 124 were professionals and 15 students. The total Chapter membership is 246 with a breakdown of 215 professionals and 31 students. Each of the committee chairs present presented a report on the activities of their committee. Of special note was the Issues Committee which brought SB 1 to our attention, information will be made available to the membership at large on the bill.

There were three continuing education classes taught at this year's annual meeting with 66 participants. There were twenty-five presenters at the meeting and four posters which is an excellent turnout.

The Publicity and Exhibits committee headed by Steve Poarch had over \$7,000 worth of prizes and services donated to the Auction and raffle which went very well.

Special recognition was made to Tim Bonner for the "Outstanding Paper" at last year's meeting, Pat Hutson received a "Special Recognition in Fisheries Work" for his many years with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Loraine Fries was recognized for her work in "Administration of the Genetics Laboratory"

Charlie Munger was elected president elect and Deborah Wade as Secretary/Treasurer. Paul Hammerschmidt was installed as President.

APRIL EXCOM MINUTES

by Deborah Wade

Present – Bruce Hysmith, Paul Hammerschmidt, Fred Jensen, John Prentice, John Moczygemba, Charlie Munger, and Deborah Wade

Committee Reports:

Each of the committee reports were submitted and reviewed for each of the standing committees. Points of interest included several issues relating to non-game species harvest of coastal waters, bi-catch, and exotic vegetation, all of which are to be mentioned in the newsletter. The Pond Management Manual should be completed and available for distribution soon. The mail-in ballot did not meet with a great deal of response this year, but John wants to give it one more try. Continuing education is seeking new topics for continuing education as well as committee members to help provide input and alternative viewpoints.

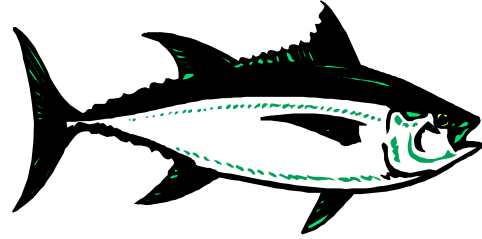
Three committees are seeking new chairmen: Exotic Species, Awards, and Publicity/Exhibits. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding possible individuals to approach regarding these committees.

Old Business:

The revised Procedural Manual will be completed soon and John will pass it on to Paul. TCAFS will pay for Bob Carline's room when he comes to Texas for the AFS meeting in Dallas in late April.

New Business:

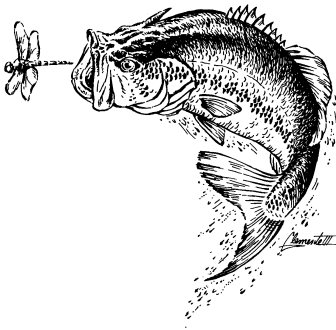
The major topic of discussion under new business was the 2000 meeting. It will probably be a joint meeting with Arkansas and Louisiana in January.



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Deborah Wade

As of March 31, 1999, the TCAFS has an account balance of \$35,962.00. At the annual meeting in Corpus Christi we had a total income of \$10,249.50 and a total expense of \$10,587.28, giving us a net loss of \$337.78.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

by Deborah Wade

The Annual meeting was successful from a membership standpoint in that 140 members were in attendance at the meeting. Of these 14 were students and 126 were professionals and their spouses.

Of those in attendance at the annual meeting, 90 took advantage of pre-registration with the remaining 50 registering upon arrival.

There were few if any complaints about combining the social with the registration fee. As such, this practice could be encouraged to continue as it makes it easier to reconcile the check ledgers and the registration desk.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

by John Moczygemba

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!!

Although the annual meeting and the elections are over, it is not too early to start thinking about next year. At the next annual meeting we will be electing a President-elect for the year 2000. If anyone wants to be on the Nominating Committee contact me (John Moczygemba) at fisheries@texoma.net or 903-786-2389 or Lake Texoma Fisheries Station, 628 Lariat Drive, Denison, Texas 75021-4200. If any members have a suggested candidate let me know also. Just remember the candidate must be a member of the AFS, in addition to the TCAFS. This year we will be using a mail out ballot for those wishing to vote before the meeting. Look for it late fall.

PARENT SOCIETY AFS

by Kristin Merriman-Clarke

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 1999 ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to attend the 129th Annual Meeting scheduled for 29 August-2 September at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year's theme is "Integrating Fisheries Principles from Mountain to Marine Habitats". Featuring more than 20 symposia and hundreds of paper presentations. Rates at the Adam's Mark Hotel are only \$85 for up to four people per room. A student block of 25 rooms is available for a reduced rate of \$65, and 15% of the AFS reserved block

of rooms is available at the government rate of \$69. Rates do not include a 12% tax. These prices are available until 27 July on a space-available basis, so reserve early by calling 704/372-4100 or 800/444-ADAM and saying that you will be attending the AFS Annual Meeting. Discounted airfares with U.S. Airways are available, call the Meeting and Convention Reservation Office if U.S. Airways at 800/334-8644; 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (select option "1" when making the call) and refer to Gold File number 34630829. You can also get reduced rates from AVIS car rentals by calling 800/331-1600 and refer to AVIS Worldwide Discount (AWD) number J096405. For more information on the meeting, visit the AFS World Wide Web site, <http://www.fisheries.org/annual99/index.htm>. For more information on Charlotte and its many attractions, access <http://www.charlottecvb.org>.

ISSUES COMMITTEE

by Randy Blankinship

LIVE SHELL HARVEST RAISES CONCERN AMONG MARINE RESOURCE MANAGERS

Reports of the unregulated harvest of live shells from the marine environment have caused concern recently among fishery resource managers in Texas. The harvesters are as diverse as the uses of the live shells they collect and according to reports, they are collecting large numbers of live animals.

In the South Padre Island area, the collection of live shells from the shallow water flats has become popular among winter Texans. This is particularly the case in unique and easily accessible black mangrove stands where species such as lightening whelk, banded tulip, nerites, horse conchs, and others are found. These live animals are removed from their shells and disposed of with only the shell kept for use.

Along other coastal areas, collectors that are often recognizable along ethnic lines are harvesting marsh periwinkles from *Spartina* marshes for culinary

purposes. Whether the aquatic products are harvested for personal or commercial gain is often unknown and information on landings is very limited. It is possible, however, that heavy localized harvesting may have an impact on the population of some of the species in certain areas.

Currently, recreational harvesters are required to have a valid sport fishing license and a saltwater fishing stamp. Commercial harvesters must have a general commercial fishing license to sell the animals. A soft spot exists in the rules; however, which allows for the selling of parts of an animal collected under a sport license. For example, a crafter of seashell sailing ships or seashell Chihuahuas with googely eyes made from live shell collected under a sport license is not prohibited from selling their products.

Resource managers with the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will be investigating this fishery to determine the need for a fishery management strategy including possible regulation. The development of a management strategy may be an interesting process because of the diversity of those involved in the fishery.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

by Gordon Linam

CALL FOR PAPERS!!

The Editorial Committee invites all presenters at our last chapter meeting in Corpus Christi to submit a manuscript for publication in the Chapter's Annual Proceedings. Format must follow the American Fisheries Society publishing guidelines. Four double spaced manuscripts and a copy on disk should be sent to Gordon Linam, 505 Staples Road, San Marcos, TX 78666 for consideration. Deadline for submittals is Friday, July 30th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

Volunteers are needed to chair one of the following committees: AWARDS, PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS, and EXOTIC SPECIES. If you have the desire for fire get in touch with Paul Hammerschmidt.

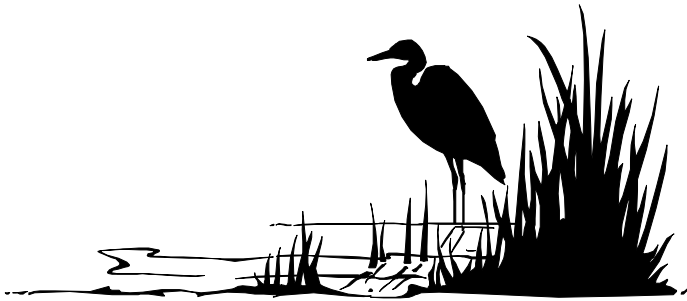
Contact Bruce Hysmith if you have any ideas for a continuing education topic that could be presented at our next TCAFS annual meeting.

JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/default.htm> or contact **Dr. Kevin Pope, Box 42125, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2125, (806) 742-2843, kpope@ttu.edu** or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.

**Next Newsletter submission deadline:
June 22, 1999Summer Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at **tpw1a@arn.net**



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PAST-PRESIDENT John Prentice
SECRETARY-TREASURER Deborah Wade

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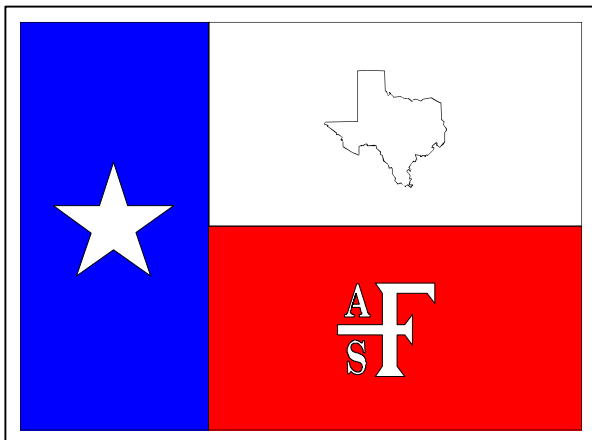
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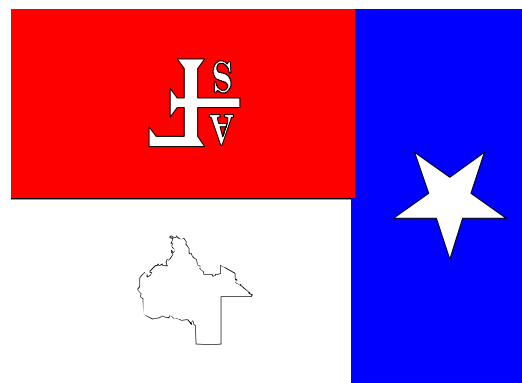
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